(b) the theme chosen for the deliberations at the Congress

(c) the steps being taken to project India's heritage in the realm of Ayurveda considering its leading and dominant role in the propagation of Ayurvedic system of medicine; and

(d) how many countries are likely to participate in the Congress?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA) : (a) to (d) Swadeshi Science Movement has proposed to hold World Ayureda Congress from 1st November to 4th November, 2002 at Kochi, Kerala.

Main theme of the congress is "Ayurveda and the World Health" to showcase strengths of Ayurveda to the world.

The Government has taken several steps to project India's role as the leading exponent of Ayurveda system of medicine. Department has signed MOU, exchanged experts, organized presentation, exhibition, fair, etc.

The organizers have informed that experts of traditional medicine from 50 countries are expected to participate in the Congress.

Acquisition of crude carriers by SCI Ltd.

"211. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have refused permission for acquisition of two very large crude carriers by the privatisation-bound Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the impact of non-acquisition of these carriers?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRIVED PRAKASH GOYAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.